



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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OCT 28 2005

Glenn Hickman
President
AZ Poultry Federation
7403 N. 91st. Ave.
Glendale, Arizona 85305

Dear Mr. Hickman:

Mark Rey, Undersecretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will conduct a listening session for the 2007 Farm Bill on November 9, 2005, in Phoenix, Arizona. This is your chance to personally provide input regarding the 2007 Farm Bill's development.



Farm Bill Forums

The Forum will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Plaza Room (located at I-17 and Peoria Avenue) and will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon.

The public is invited to provide comments on six specific questions based on these policy considerations:

1. How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?
2. How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new and next generation farmers from entering production agriculture?
3. How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?
4. How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?
5. How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?
6. How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

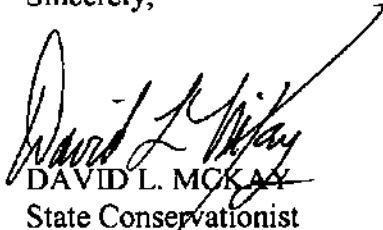
Comments will be accepted at the forum; by mail to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, Farm Bill, 1400 Independence Ave, SW., and Washington, DC 20250-3355; or electronically via the Internet at the USDA home page (<http://www.usda.gov>) by selecting "Farm Bill Forums"; or email to FarmBill@usda.gov.

USDA will review public comments (including any analyses, reports, studies, and other material) received by December 30, 2005.

For more information about the Arizona Farm Bill Forum, please feel free to contact me.

We hope you will be able to attend and provide your comments on the upcoming 2007 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. McKay", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

DAVID L. MCKAY
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
602-280-8801



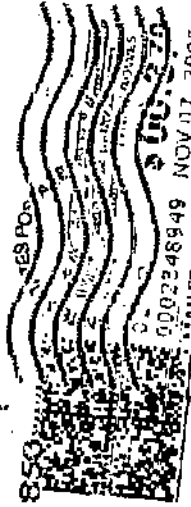
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United States Department of Agriculture
Attn: Secretary Mike Johanns, Farm Bill
1400 Independence Ave, SW.
Washington, DC 20250-3355

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The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-3355

November 17, 2005

Dear Secretary Johanns:

This letter is in response to a request for comments concerning the 2007 Farm Bill. I am writing on behalf of the Georgia Rural Health Association, a statewide organization composed of a large number of representatives from the health, education, social services, and behavioral health fields.

The request for public comment raises the question of whether more Government attention should be focused on investing in the infrastructure in rural America, such as new technologies. It is to this topic we draw your attention.

As you know, President Bush has forwarded a bold agenda for implementing a health information technology infrastructure throughout the country in the next few years. Rural and very remote communities do not have access to low-cost broadband services that can help them to compete in today's economic markets. There are insufficient resources to support all those communities that need support to purchase broadband access. Rural Utilities Services (RUS) funding has been an important resource, but is insufficient to meet the country's needs.

We recommend that the 2007 Farm bill be modified to include capacity to support the expansion of rural resources to support broadband access. High speed connectivity is critical not only for conducting business in the 21st century, but for expanding access to healthcare in rural hospitals, clinics, and private health practitioner offices. If the health information technology initiative is to succeed, and if small businesses and rural health services are to have equal access to the benefits of HIT (e.g., electronic health records for employees, patients, medical staffs), then broadband services must be expanded throughout the nation.

We believe the 2007 Farm bill is critical to achieving this goal, and seek your support for the investment.

Sincerely,

H.D. Cannington

Georgia Rural Health Association President

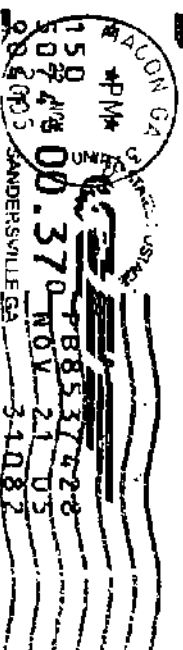


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The Honorable Mike Johanns
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